



From the Pastor's Desk:

Do you see this couple? Did you know they are "The Holy Family"? Two thousand years ago they had to flee the country to escape soldiers who were sent to murder the "first born male" of every family in the vicinity and surrounding communities of Bethlehem. Who would have thought that a child could be such a threat that to make the threat go away, the answer would be found in the calculated mass murder, infanticide of only God knows how many male children.

Look around you at your family. Take a look at your children. Are they a threat to anyone? Of course not!!!! Or perhaps they are a threat, a threat yet to be seen.

Maybe one of them will discover a cure for cancer or any one of the death verdict illnesses that roam our world. If that happens then we won't need expensive medicines, lab and hospital equipment. The cost of health care might have to drop... wouldn't that be a kick in the head to some and a cause for great joy to most others.

So what was the problem with Jesus? The problem was, and still is, that He was not just another baby born in Bethlehem or any other part of the world. He was and still is "The Christ", "The Anointed One" of God. His coming was foretold from ancient times... "For in the village of Bethlehem a child shall be born and they shall name him Jesus because he will save people from their sins." This family, Mary, Joseph and Jesus were chosen for a special mission in life. They surrendered themselves to God and because of their deep faith and trust in God they gave birth to a child who would be the cause of consternation for some, but the cause of great joy, love, peace and eternal hope to many throughout the world.

Today is, however, not just about Jesus, Mary and Joseph, it is about YOU and YOUR FAMILY... whoever YOU are and WHEREVER you may be this is a day for you to CELEBRATE YOUR FAMILY. This is a day for parents to rededicate themselves to their marriage vows to God and to recall those words of the Priest when he first said to you, "Will you accept children from God, and bring them up according to the law of God and His Church?" ... and you both said, "WE DO?" You promised to God once again at your child's Baptism as you accepted your role in passing on the Catholic Faith to your child, "You have come here today to present this child for baptism. It will be your duty, as Christian Mother and Father, to bring your child up in the practice of the Faith. See that the Flame of Faith is kept safe from the poison of sin to grow always stronger in their hearts... Is it your WILL that this Child be baptized in the faith of the Church we have all professed with you." ... "I is!"

There are many who would destroy your family by making it unimportant and worse no different than any other clinically or politically defined unit of people. But YOU ARE DIFFERENT... Only the family unit of Male and Female bound in a covenant relationship with God and each other as Husband and Wife can produce the Miracle of Life that is THEIR Child. This is what makes you a Holy Family. Today, as I salute my Mother and Father who made us a Holy Family... I salute and pray for Your Holy Family. May it be a source of consternation to those who don't understand you, and a source of witness of great Faith, Hope and Love to all who come to know you. "Let the children come to me, says the Lord, for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs." May you all have totally AWESOME and Blessed New Year 2010.

May God + bless you and yours now and forever,

Father Anthony
